

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. – 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) A method of evaluating onset or onset possibility of rheumatoid arthritis in a human subject, the method comprising the ~~step-steps~~ of:
_____detecting the ~~presence or absence of whether~~ a gene homozygously coding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence ~~shown in~~ SEQ. ID NO.:1 is present homozygously in the subject; and
evaluating the onset or onset possibility of rheumatoid arthritis in the subject; wherein the step of evaluating comprises determining that the onset possibility of rheumatoid arthritis is increased if the gene is present homozygously in the subject.

5. – 10. (Cancelled)